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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/378,526	08/20/1999	STEPHEN IREMONGER	CLARP026/P24	9248

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EXAMINER

YUAN, ALMARI ROMERO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

14

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/378,526

Applicant(s)

IREMONGER ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Yuan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Continued Examination 8/20/03 and Amendment filed on 7/11/03.
2. The rejection of claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lotus in view of Wright has been withdrawn in light of newly found art.
3. Claims 1-38 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 17, and 31 are independent claims.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/23/03 has been entered.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 1, "Cross-Reference to Related Application" section of the specification. Applicant is reminded to insert related applications serial numbers and the status of each application, if allowed or in patent prosecution.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. **Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.**

In regard to independent claim 1, the amended claim limitation “wherein the database program performs the interview sequence, the database program being capable of accessing the data stored in the database” and “organization information obtained by the database program through the interview sequence, wherein the database program operates to automatically create the report or layout without requiring a programming script to be written by a human”, are not enabled in the specification. Applicant is advised against the addition of new matter.

In regard to dependent claims 2-16, claims 2-16 are rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of their respective base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

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9. **Claims 1-38 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Habraken, Joe, "Using Lotus SmartSuite Millennium Edition", 09/1998, Que Corporation, pages 337-340 and pages 411-425 (herein after "Lotus").**

Regarding independent claims 17 and 31, Lotus discloses:

A method for creating a report layout for data stored in a database (on pages 412 and 414: teaches creating a report), said method comprising:

(a) performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information (on pages 414-415, see figure 24.4: teaches Report Assistant (interview sequence) walks you through the steps of creating a new report with fields from a database)

the organization information including at least a list of fields (on pages 414-416, see figure 24.5: teaches the Report Assistant helps you to pick the fields from a list of fields from the current or appropriate database to be included in the report)

and at least one summary field for the report or layout, the at least one summary field (on page 417, see figure 24.7: teaches summary field) being associated with at least one of the fields in the list of fields (on page 415, see figure 24.5: teaches the list of fields in figure 24.5 is associated with the fields on page 417, figure 24.7),

the report layout including a plurality of parts including a header area, a grand total area, a summary area, a body area, and a footer area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows header, body and summary on a report, on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total on a report, and on page 425: teaches footer on a report layout); and

(b) automatically creating the report layout based on the interview sequence (on page 414: teaches creating a report using database using the Report Assistant (interview sequence) and

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pages 417-415, see figure 24.8: teaches a completed report with organized information) said creating includes placing the summary field (on page 417, see figure 24.7: teaches summary field) in at least one of the grand total area (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total on a report) and the summary area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows summary area), and placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows body area).

Regarding dependent claim 18, Lotus discloses:

wherein when the summary field is a subtotal, said creating (b) places the subtotal in the summary area (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows subtotals in a summary area).

Regarding dependent claim 19, Lotus discloses:

wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area at a position corresponding to the position as the associated one of the fields placed in the body (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows subtotals in the summary area same position as the fields in the body area).

Regarding dependent claim 20, Lotus discloses:

wherein the subtotal is placed in the summary area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows subtotal is in the summary area in the same column as the other fields).

Regarding dependent claim 21, Lotus discloses:

wherein when the summary field is to grand total summary field, said creating (b) places the grand total in the grand total area (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total from the calculations of all the subtotals and a grand total area).

Regarding dependent claim 22, Lotus discloses:

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wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area at a position corresponding to the position as the associated one of the fields placed in the body (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total area with a grand total value; the grand total can be positioned by the user as the fields are positioned in the body).

Regarding dependent claim 23, Lotus discloses:

wherein the grand total summary field is placed in the grand total area in the same column location in the report layout as the one of the fields placed in the body that corresponds thereto (on pages 418 and 424, see figures 24.8 and 24.14: the grand total area can be placed by the user in the same column as the fields placed in the body).

Regarding dependent claim 24, Lotus discloses:

wherein said method produces a report for the data using the report layout, and wherein said method further comprises: (c automatically creating a script to run the report (on pages 338-340: teaches creating a script).

Regarding dependent claim 25, Lotus discloses:

wherein the script is requested during the interview sequence (on pages 338-340: teaches creating a script to performs tasks or actions for worksheets or reports; the script is created through a dialog box where the user selects the workbook or report to run script and name the script).

Regarding dependent claim 26, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes sort fields for the report or layout (on page 421: teaches sorting fields in the report).

Regarding dependent claim 27, Lotus discloses:

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wherein said method further comprises: (c) producing a report for the data using the report layout (on page 412 and on page 415: teaches creating a report using a layout).

Regarding dependent claim 28, Lotus discloses:

wherein said producing (c) sorts the data in accordance with the sort fields for the report (on page 421, see figure 24.11: teaches sorting data with the sorted fields in a report)

Regarding dependent claim 29, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes a theme selection for the report layout (on page 415: teaches selecting style for the report layout).

Regarding dependent claim 30, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organizational information includes at least first and second of summary fields (on page 417, see figure 24.7: teaches summary fields), the first summary field is a grand total summary field (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total on a report) and the second summary field is summary field (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows summary fields), and wherein said creating (b) of the report layout comprises: (b1) placing the first summary field in the grand total area (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total value in a grand total area on a report); (b2) placing the second summary field in the summaries area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows summary area), and (b3) placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows body area).

Regarding dependent claim 32, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes header or footer information for the layout or report, the header or footer information including at least one of a logo and custom text (on pages 423-425: teaches header and foots where the user can customized text).

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Regarding dependent claim 33, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes a category that identifies the field on which the report layout is organized (on page 421, see figure 24.11: shows department (category) on the report).

Regarding dependent claim 34, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes a plurality of categories that are ordered, and the categories identify the fields and a hierarchy on which the report layout is organized (on page 421, see figure 24.11: shows first name, last name, department (plurality of categories) are ordered by the user when creating the report).

Regarding dependent claim 35, Lotus discloses:

wherein said computer readable medium further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report layout based on the interview sequence (on pages 338-340: teaches creating a script to performs tasks or actions for worksheets or reports; the script is created through a dialog box where the user selects the workbook or report to run script and name the script).

Regarding dependent claim 36, Lotus discloses:

computer program code for placing the summary field in at least one of the grand total area (on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total value in a grand total area on a report) and the summary area and placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area; (b2) placing the second summary field in the summaries area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows summary area), and (b3) placing the fields in the list of fields in the body area (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows body area).

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Regarding dependent claim 37, Lotus discloses:

wherein the summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields (on page 418, see figure 24.8 shows subtotals and on page 424, see figure 24.14 shows grand total of all subtotals).

Regarding dependent claim 38, Lotus discloses:

wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field (on pages 416-417: teaches average, count, maximum, minimum, Sum (Total) for summary calculation).

Regarding independent claim 1, Lotus discloses:

A method for creating a report or layout for data stored in a database (on pages 412 and 414: teaches creating a report), said method comprising:

(a) performing an interview sequence to obtain organization information associated with the database (on pages 414-415, see figure 24.4: teaches Report Assistant (interview sequence) walks you through the steps of creating a new report with fields from a database)

the organization information including at least a list of fields defined for the database (on pages 414-416, see figure 24.5: teaches the Report Assistant helps you to pick the fields from a list of fields from the current or appropriate database to be included in the report)

and at least one summary field for the report or layout, the at least one summary field (on page 417, see figure 24.7: teaches summary field) being associated with at least one of the fields in the list of fields (on page 415, see figure 24.5: teaches the list of fields in figure 24.5 is associated with the fields on page 417, figure 24.7),

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wherein the database program performs the interview sequence, the database program being capable of accessing the data stored in the database (on pages 414-415, see figure 24.4: teaches Report Assistant (interview sequence) to create reports from a single database or joined databases);

(b) automatically creating the report or layout based on the organization information obtained by the database program through the interview sequence, wherein the database program operates to automatically create the report or layout (on page 414: teaches creating a report using database using the Report Assistant (interview sequence) and pages 417-415, see figure 24.8: teaches a completed report with organized information) without requiring a programming script to be written by a human (on page 338-340: teaches scripts are created using LotusScript for executing commands (the scripts are for executing commands and are not written by a human)).

Regarding dependent claims 2 and 11, Lotus discloses:

wherein the summary field is a subtotal or a grand total of the data in the associated fields (on page 418, see figure 24.8 shows subtotals and on page 424, see figure 24.14 shows grand total of all subtotals).

Regarding dependent claims 3 and 12, Lotus discloses:

wherein the summary field provides one of a total, count, average, minimum, and maximum of the data for the field associated with the summary field (on pages 416-417: teaches average, count, maximum, minimum, Sum (Total) for summary calculation).

Regarding dependent claim 4, Lotus discloses:

wherein the list of fields is an ordered list of fields (on page 416, see figure 24.5: teaches list of fields are ordered from the database).

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Regarding dependent claims 5 and 6, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes a style for the layout or report (on page 415: teaches selecting style for the report).

Regarding dependent claim 7, Lotus discloses:

wherein the style for the layout or report identifies particular characteristics for the layout or report including a plurality of background color, text size, text font, text style, and other colors (on page 418, page 420, and page 423, see figure 24.12: teaches the report attributes can be changed; such attributes may include color, character, border attributes).

Regarding dependent claims 8-10, the limitations of claims 8-10 are a method for processing in the computer readable medium of claims 32-34 and are rejected under the same rationale.

Regarding dependent claims 13 and 14, Lotus discloses:

wherein said method produces a report, and wherein said method further comprises: (c) automatically creating a script to run the report (on pages 338-340: teaches creating a script).

Regarding dependent claim 15, Lotus discloses:

wherein the organization information further includes sort fields for the report or layout (on page 421: teaches sorting fields in the report).

Regarding dependent claim 16, Lotus discloses:

wherein the report or layout has a plurality of parts, the parts including header, grand total, summary, body, and footer (on page 418, see figure 24.8: shows header, body and summary, on page 424, see figure 24.14: shows grand total, and on page 425: teaches footer).

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Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

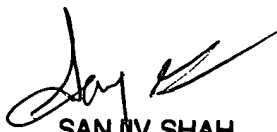
Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Yuan whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (8:30am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AY
November 16, 2003


SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER